

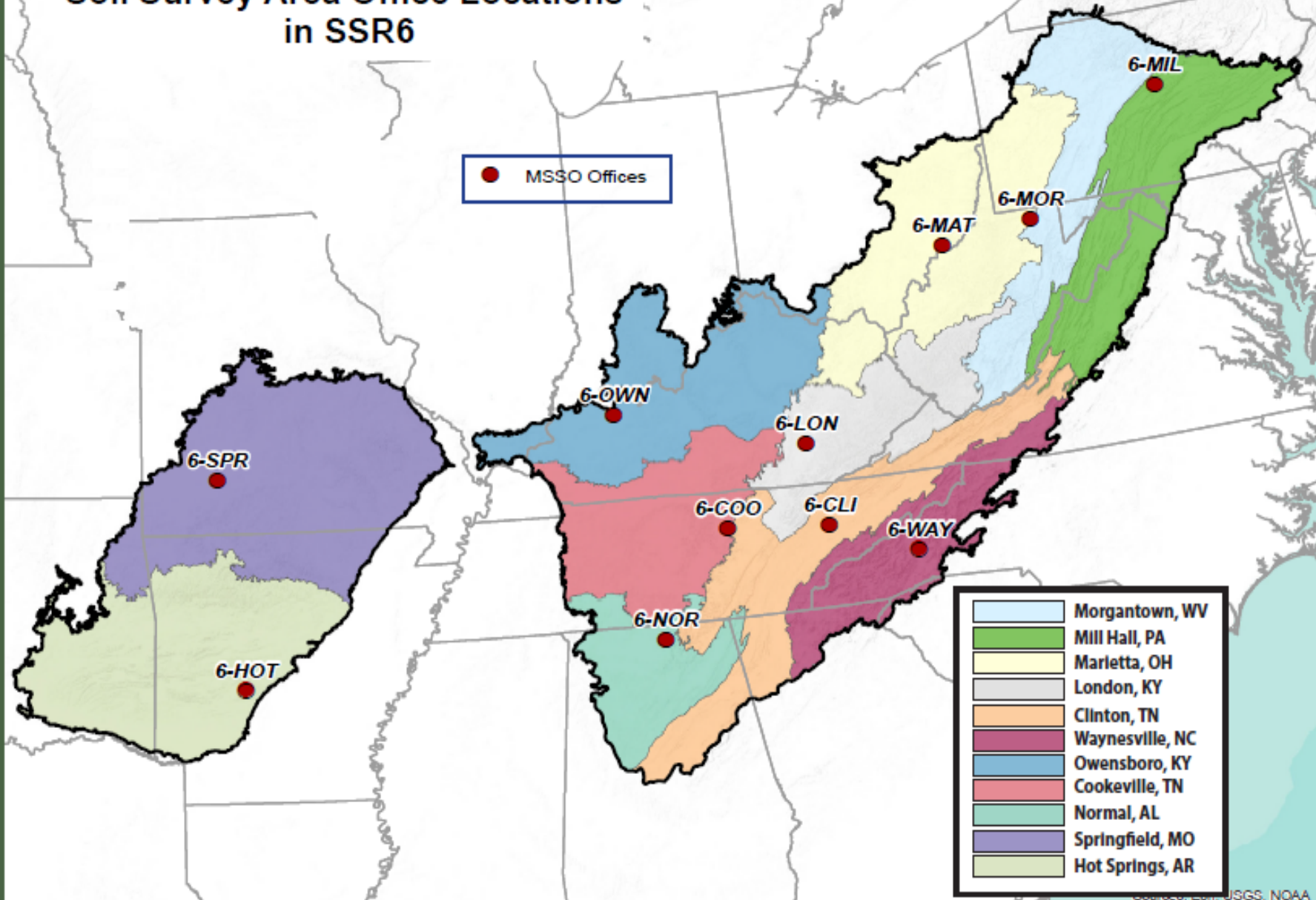
# **2016 Northeast Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference**

## **Soil Survey Region 6 Update**

**June 20-23, 2016**



## Soil Survey Area Office Locations in SSR6



## FY16 SSD PRIORITIES

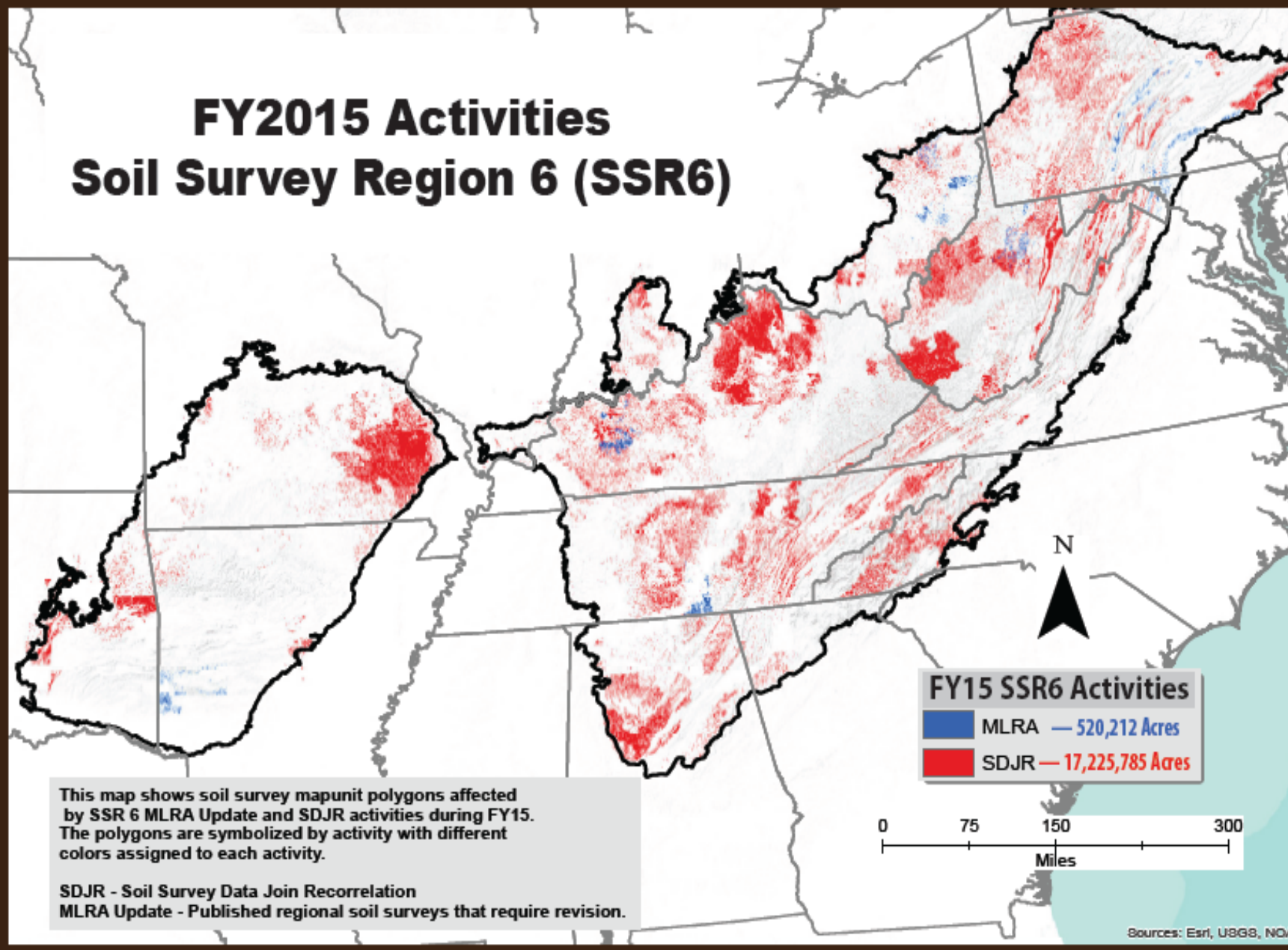
- Assist States in providing technical assistance for health activities, conducting research, and building partnerships with universities
- Accelerate the funding of research on forest and Federal lands
- Provide ecological research to inform national and State policy
- Enhance the integration of research and management
- Strengthen the National Academies of Science collaboration with the National Research Council
- Finalize the Soil Survey and develop a national soils information system and integrate it into standard operating procedures
- **Provided States with more than 200 TSS activities**
- **Complete Initial Surveys (several projects remain)**
  - Chattahoochee National Forest (GA)
  - Three cities in VA
- **Expansion of ES/ESD projects**
  - ES Staff fully engaged in Provisional ES Initiative with plan developed to complete in FY2020
  - Continue with ES/ESD work
- **NEON (National Environmental Observation Network)**
  - 5 Sites in Region (VA & TN; 6-ASH, 6-KNO, 6-MIL)
    - Completed one site early FY16
    - 2 sites to be sampled in August, 2016
  - Sites only occur in TN and VA.
- **Service & support agreements with NCSS partners**
  - 4 projects with universities and federal partners
- **SDJR (all offices fully engaged for fourth year)**
  - >650 projects for FY16
  - Most SSOs to transition into MLRA field projects in FY17
  - Emphasize limited MLRA projects for FY16 (increase in FY17)
- **Provide training, QA and guidance to MSSO's (SSRO)**
  - Held class-room PES training for ES Specialists and SSO staff
  - Scheduled 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. training on updated NSSH 610

## SSR6 1-, 5- and 10-Year Business Plans

- Soil Survey Inventory
- Ecological Site Inventory
- Special Projects/Initiatives
- Staff Management
- Continue Supporting Partners
- Technical Soil Services
- Training/Career Development
- Activity and Management: BOA, MT, and TT involvement
- Marketing the Soil Survey



# FY2015 Activities Soil Survey Region 6 (SSR6)



# Fiscal Year 2016 Planned Activities

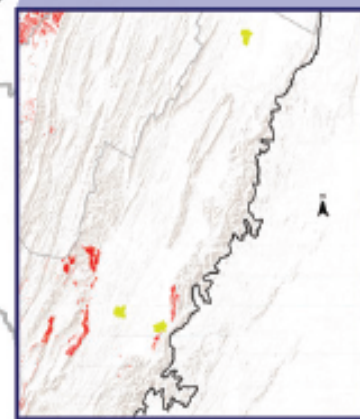
## Soil Survey Region 6 (SSR6)



### FY16 Planned Activities

- Initial
- MLRA
- SDJR

0 50 100 200  
Miles



# Initiative Design

**Technical Team and Management Team involvement will increase as MLRA Field Project activity increases**

- **Tech Teams: (SSO plus broad group of members each with first hand knowledge of the MLRA Soil Survey Area)**

- Identify updates needs within MLRA
- Develop proposed project priorities
- Develop draft project plans
- Participate in quality control activities
- Meet formally at least annually
  - Regular correspondence between formal sessions

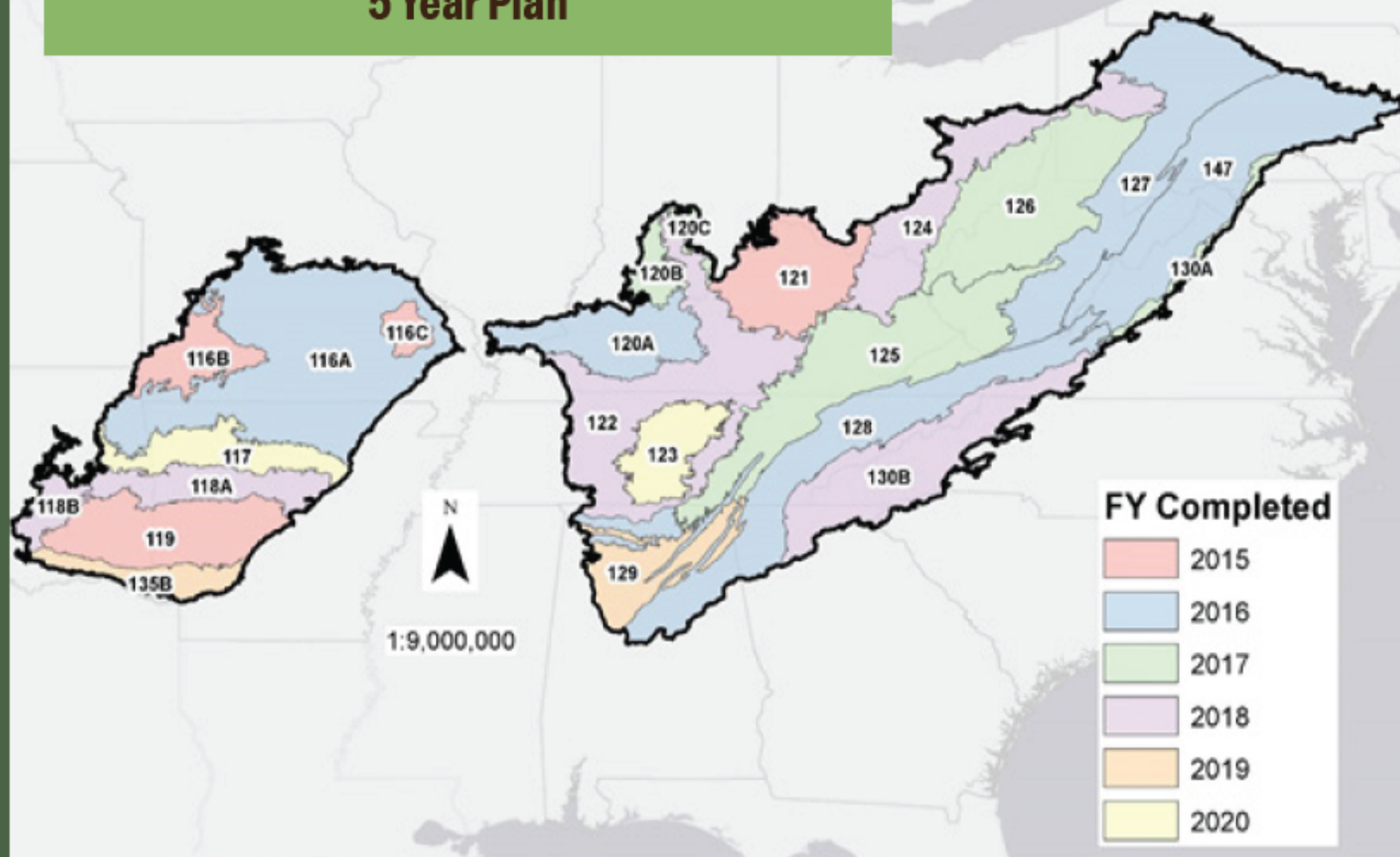
- **Management Teams: (Limited group members)**

- SSR6 utilizes SSO-level MT's
- Approve project priorities developed by SSO & TT
- Approve project plans
- SSS are 'core' of MT, but includes other significant entities (e.g. USFS)
- SRC involved with ESD work

DJR Projects  
MLRA Projects



# Provisional Ecological Site Development 5 Year Plan





## **Other Activities Throughout SSR6**

- **Geophysical investigation capabilities, 3 GPR units in SSR6**
- **State Pasture NRI – Involved in most states**
- **Data evaluation for Oak Regeneration Project (PA) – USFS Northern Research Station**
- **Soil Quality Monitoring – Cherokee NF (TN)**
- **ES/ESD Development and Soil Survey Update – Monongahela NF (WV)**
  - **Planning limited field week hosted by the 6-MOR MSSO; partners: USFS, WVU**
    - **Funding provided by USFS-MNF using WV Restoration Venture funds**
- **Wetland ES development, disturbance states and carbon stocks - Penn State Univ.**
  - **Partial funding provided by NRCS**
- **Development of ESDs in MLRA 147 – PA Dept. Conservation and Natural Resources**
  - **Partial funding provided by NRCS**
- **National Wetland Condition Assessment**
  - **Full characterization on 10% of sites**
  - **Assist states as requested by State Soil Scientist**

# Partnerships

# Partnerships

- Key responsibility of State Soil Scientist
- Serve as liaison between SSD/SSRO and partners
- Examples in SSR6
  - Cherokee National Forest with TN NRCS
  - Monongahela National Forest with WV NRCS
  - PA Dept. Conservation & Natural Resources w/PA NRCS
  - Penn State Univ. with PA NRCS

# WV Soil Partnership

- Many joint activities occur between MNF, WVU and NRCS (via Morgantown MSSO)
- Some activities funded through West Virginia Restoration Venture (MNF and WV NRCS)
  - Funds both Soil Survey and ESD development activities
  - Purpose is to accelerate work using non-NRCS assistance
- Serve as liaison between SSD/SSRO and partners
- Examples in SSR6
  - “Carbonscapes”
  - Conducting “field weeks” to focus work and develop/improve internal teamwork



## WV Soil Partnership - Carbonscapes

- Many joint activities occur between MNF, WVU and NRCS (via Morgantown MSSO)
- The 6-MOR SSO partnering with USFS-MNF
- Apply methodology outlined by Yoast (2015)
- Modeling SOC stock to 1 meter in the Monongahela National Forest.
- Model utilized to conduct the MNF's first ecosystem services assessment for carbon
- Will be shared with state and federal partners as part of the larger collaborative WVRV partnership

# WV Soil Partnership – Other Activities

- Gas transmission lines (Pipelines)
  - Two major projects cutting through MNF
  - Require Order 1 Soil Survey
  - NRCS Staff (6-MOR) assist by providing training to contractors
  - Will incorporate point data from field observations
    - Enhance corporate database (NASIS)